

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for an inquiry.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I was not to my feet quickly enough to enter directly in the discussion about Michigan State and Arizona and some team from North Carolina that is playing.

But one ought to fear the turtle. I want everybody to understand that the Terrapins are coming to play, Gary Williams and his 10 starters.

This is on scheduling for Saturday night, Mr. Speaker, so I presume it is, therefore, relevant that everybody be aware that, at 8:20 p.m. on Saturday evening, they certainly ought to be watching when Maryland, who of course beat Duke worse than any other team this year at their place, will again have the opportunity of doing that.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I reclaim my time.

Mr. HOYER. Michigan State wants his time back.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, they did beat Duke; but I might also say to the gentleman from Maryland that they blew a 10-point lead with a minute left against Duke as well.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Michigan would not bet on that happening a second time, would he?

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, in case they do emerge victoriously against Duke, I have wagered with the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PASTOR), a friendly wager I might say, Mr. Speaker, Michigan apples from my district in Romeo versus his tamales from Arizona if, in fact, either of us win this game.

I would say, when the Spartans go on to win, I would venture a friendly bet with the gentleman from Maryland, a bushel full of crabs versus a bushel full of Romeo apples. What does the gentleman from Maryland think?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the value of a bushel of crabs is so much greater than a bushel of apples that it is really not a fair bet. But Maryland's talent puts me at no risk, so I will be glad to accept that wager.

ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2001

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Friday, March 30, 2001, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

□ 1445

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE NORMAN SISISKY, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIR- GINIA

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 107) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 107

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Norman Sisisky, a Representative from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Resolved, That a committee of such Members of the House as the Speaker may designate, together with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of applicable accounts of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the time be equally divided and controlled between the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) and myself.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I join my fellow members of the Virginia congressional delegation and other Members of the House today in remembering NORMAN SISISKY, a true gentleman and a real patriot.

We had learned the news earlier this week that NORMAN's recent surgery had gone well, and he had returned home to recuperate before his expected return to Washington after the upcoming recess. And today we heard the shocking news that he had passed away.

Mr. Speaker, his untimely passing reminds us all of our own mortality and how important it is to live our lives with honor and integrity, as NORMAN did, and to make the most of every opportunity to serve our fellow man, as NORMAN did. NORMAN was hard-working, friendly, honest, ethical, decent and moral. He was a Member who worked in a bipartisan way. He reached across the aisle to work for the best interests of America, and it was a privilege to serve with him for the 18 years that he was in Congress and to work with him on the congressional delegation on issues of importance to our State and Union.

NORMAN was born June 9, 1927, and graduated from John Marshall High School in Richmond, Virginia. He joined the Navy after high school and served through World War II until 1946. He graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1949 with a degree in business administration. He transformed a small Pepsi bottling company in Petersburg, Virginia, into a highly successful distributor of soft drinks throughout Southside Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, he began his public service career when he was elected as a delegate to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1973 representing Petersburg. He served five terms in the Virginia General Assembly before being elected to Congress in 1982. NORMAN, like another of our late colleagues, Herb Bateman, was a senior member of the House Committee on Armed Services, and from that vantage point was the protector of our national security, and probably no man or woman in this body did more to work with regard to national security and working in a bipartisan way.

NORMAN was the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Military Procurement and also served on the Subcommittee on Readiness, and the Subcommittee on Morale, Welfare and Recreation Panel. He had recently been appointed to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. NORMAN was also a Member of the Blue Dog Coalition in the 104th through the 107th Congress, and led bipartisan efforts that worked. In 1993, he was one of six Democrats for a strong defense and worked to mobilize against military cuts.

NORMAN was instrumental in working to get funding to build the newest aircraft carrier, the USS Ronald Reagan, which was recently christened. He worked tirelessly as an advocate for production of shipbuilding and strengthening our national defense. He represented with pride Virginia's Fourth Congressional District in the southeastern corner of the Commonwealth, the home of the first permanent English settlement in North America, and today the home of one of the largest concentrations of military power in the world.

This Congress, the Commonwealth of Virginia and this Nation have lost a faithful servant and a wonderful man, but our lives are forever enriched for having had NORMAN SISISKY as a friend and colleague.

Mr. Speaker, our deepest sympathies are extended to Congressman SISISKY's family, his wife of over 50 years, Rhoda, and his four sons, Mark, Terry, Richard and Stuart, and his seven grandchildren; and also to his congressional family, his staff here on Capitol Hill and in his district offices, and all of the close friends that he had among the Members of Congress and staff. We share in that loss.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, NORMAN SISISKY was a good man. He was a hard-working colleague, and he was a dedicated public servant to the citizens of his southeast Virginia district. I think we were all struck by his unfailing consideration of his colleagues. He loved this institution. He did not need the salary that it paid, he was independently wealthy, but he lived and talked and acted without pretense.

He leaves a great legacy to the people of Virginia and to our whole Nation. He will always be remembered for standing behind our military families and our veterans.

NORMAN was one of the most effective advocates in the Congress for a strong Navy and its shipbuilding program. He knew that this Nation must always remain militarily strong, and through his public service helped in a substantial way to make our military second to none.

We will all miss NORMAN's friendship and his great leadership within the Congress and to the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend and colleague from Virginia, NORMAN SISISKY, who served this body with dignity, honor and extreme dedication since 1983.

I first met NORM in 1974 when I was an aide in the Virginia General Assembly. He was a freshman member at that time, and he was known at that time as one of the smartest guys in the general assembly and a gentleman and someone if he wanted to pursue public service could go a long way, and he did.

Virginia's Fourth Congressional District and the Nation has lost a first-class public servant. NORM was a true gentleman and a great patriot. I will never forget his kind and valuable tutelage when I first came to Congress, nor will I forget how he demonstrated to all of us the importance of doing good rather than getting credit. He cer-

tainly earned his reputation as a hard worker and skilled negotiator.

During his 18 years in Congress, NORM secured committee assignments that paid dividends to the residents and businesses in his district. He played a role in reforming the Department of Defense's financial management system and worked tirelessly to preserve the nuclear shipbuilding industrial base so vital to employment rates in the Hampton Roads area. His was the proper and responsible balance: protect Virginia's military facilities, but also make sure that military spending decisions are fiscally prudent and fair to taxpayers nationwide.

NORM was a businessman. Just as he transformed a small bottling company into a highly successful distributorship throughout Southside Virginia, NORM toiled in the Congress to improve procurement practices and streamline government to make it more effective and efficient. He leaves this country stronger and better for his tireless efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I mourn the loss of NORM SISISKY as a friend and colleague. More than just a Member of Congress, he will be remembered as a husband, father, businessman, State legislator and patriot.

I want to extend my deepest sympathies to his wife Rhoda and their four sons and extended family and staff. I cannot express how much I will miss this great public servant.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), NORM SISISKY's neighbor.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. It is with a heavy heart I come to the floor to speak of one of my colleagues and dear friends, NORMAN SISISKY of Virginia's Fourth Congressional District.

I have known NORMAN since we served together in the House of Delegates, over 20 years ago, and for 8 years I have had the great fortune to represent a district adjacent to his in Hampton Roads. The proximity of our districts allowed us to work together on a lot of different issues, and, as a result, we became close, and our staffs in Washington, D.C., and the district staffs became extremely close.

Hampton Roads, Virginia, indeed all of Virginia and our entire Nation, was well served by NORMAN's leadership on the House Committee on Armed Services. He was the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Military Procurement and also a member of the Subcommittee on Military Readiness, where he worked diligently to ensure our Nation's military was second to none. He took pride in that responsibility and never let anyone forget it.

He had a unique leadership style; one without fanfare, behind the scenes, and it was effective. Newport News Ship-

building has remained a world leader in nuclear shipbuilding because of his efforts. We have been able to continue nuclear aircraft carrier and submarine construction because of NORMAN SISISKY.

When Virginia's military facilities came under threat of being closed during the base closings of the 1990s, Congressman SISISKY successfully protected Fort Lee and other bases in Virginia that have been critical to the readiness of the Armed Forces. NORMAN SISISKY was also well-respected for his understanding of fiscal responsibility.

He will be remembered as a committed husband, a good father, and a proud Virginia gentleman. He will be sorely missed by the Virginia delegation, his other House colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and others who have had the privilege of knowing and working with him.

Our condolences go out to his wife Rhoda, his four sons and other family members, his staff, and especially Jan Faircloth, who has served him and the Fourth District for almost 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, Virginia has lost an effective servant who will sorely be missed.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE).

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, today Virginia and the Nation has lost an outstanding representative.

NORMAN SISISKY has helped many citizens throughout the Fourth District of Virginia. He fought for fiscal constraint and worked tirelessly for the defense of our Nation. Through his leadership, the seas and the skies are safer for America and her Armed Forces. Our Armed Forces would not be what they are today without the steadfast support that he gave to our national defense.

NORMAN was one of the finest businessmen in Virginia, and he shared his success not only with his family, but with many charitable endeavors throughout the Fourth District, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Nation. His contributions to institutions of higher education in south central Virginia have helped many students gain a college degree.

It was an honor to serve in this body with NORMAN SISISKY, and also in the Virginia General Assembly, where he was a member of the house appropriations committee. He helped tremendously the Petersburg area of the Commonwealth and also all of Southside.

NORMAN was a personal friend, and I shall always remember the guidance he provided when I was first elected to the House of Representatives. I, like many others, am thankful for the opportunity to have known and worked with NORMAN SISISKY.

My deepest sympathies go to his family and his staff.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman

from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), the senior Democrat of the Committee on Armed Services, on whose committee Mr. SISISKY was so proud to serve.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, words are difficult at a moment like this, when we are all saddened and shocked at the loss of our friend NORMAN SISISKY, the true gentleman from Virginia. We will miss him so.

I sat next to him on the Committee on Armed Services now for some 19 years and shared friendship, comments, wit, knowledge, and advice from him. And all of this will be a lingering memory not just for me, but for those of us who worked with him.

The word "great" is used so often, particularly in this body, but NORMAN SISISKY was a great friend. He was a great legislator; Member of this body. He thought greatly. He had a vision for our national security, and yet he had great fondness for the young men and women in all uniforms.

As has been spoken, he was such a champion of shipbuilding. But it was more than that. He was a champion for a strong and safe and secure America.

We will long remember NORMAN SISISKY as a great person. Longfellow once penned in his poem "Psalm of Life" the words, "Lives of great men all remind us we can make our lives sublime, and, departing, leave behind us footprints on the sands of time." Well, NORMAN SISISKY left some wonderful footprints along Virginia, here in Washington, D.C., in this Chamber, and in our country.

Our sympathy goes to Rhoda, his four sons, and the rest of his family.

□ 1500

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a patriot and true Virginia gentleman, our friend and colleague NORM SISISKY. The Commonwealth of Virginia lost a great American today with the passing of NORM SISISKY. I had the pleasure of getting to know him when I arrived here in Congress and soon established a friendship and a strong admiration for one of Virginia's most honorable public servants.

NORM served Virginia with great integrity and honor and consistently put the interest of Virginia ahead of politics. With NORM, it was not a Republican or a Democrat issue. It was a Virginia issue. NORM SISISKY's leadership within the Virginia delegation will be sorely missed. His unyielding support of our Armed Forces served as an inspiration for all lawmakers who embraced the dedication and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform.

Congressman NORM SISISKY will always be remembered for his service to Virginia and his devotion to the ideals

that he held so dear. His family, staff and other loved ones will be in my prayers.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the chairman of our Policy and Steering Committee on which Mr. SISISKY served.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, this body has been diminished by the loss of two very similar Americans, one early in this year, Julian Dixon. Julian was an African American. He was an American. We have now, this morning, lost NORMAN SISISKY, a Jewish American. He was an American.

Both were similar in their approach. They were not partisan nor small. They were focused on the best interests of their communities, of their State, of their Nation. They were focused on their constituents and the people who served this great land. They were examples of what has made this country great.

I was here when NORM SISISKY came to the Congress of the United States, and because Maryland and Virginia are in the same region we did a lot of work together. NORM SISISKY became my dear and close friend.

NORM SISISKY was an extraordinary individual, with a sometimes perverse sense of humor. He would berate us one time and say, oh, you cannot do that, that is the worst thing in the world, and you knew if you just waited a little bit he was going to say, but I am with you.

He loved to do that. You could go to him for advice and counsel and know that you would get the wisdom of a man who had seen life, who had seen both advantage and adversity, and who accommodated both.

NORM SISISKY, Mr. Speaker, as all of us know, had a bout with cancer a few years ago. He faced that challenge with the same kind of courage that he faced life. We believed and he believed that he had overcome that challenge, and he returned to this body to, as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), and his Virginia colleagues have so aptly stated, to contribute mightily to the security of this Nation and to international security.

NORM SISISKY was one of the experts in this House on national security. He was one, as I said before and others have said, who was respected on both sides of the aisle for working in a non-partisan, nonpolitical way to ensure the strength of our armed services.

In addition to the Maryland-Virginia connection, I have two major Naval facilities in my district, Patuxent Naval Air Station and the Indian Head Naval Ordnance Station.

As we have heard, NORM SISISKY had one of the great Naval installations in the world, if not the greatest, in his district. We worked very closely together. He was a giant as an advocate for the strength of the U.S. Navy. The Navy and all its personnel have lost one of their strongest advocates and closest friends.

NORM SISISKY was not the Member who spoke most frequently on this floor. Nor was he the Member, as some have said, who tried to take the most credit for objectives accomplished. But, Mr. Speaker, there was no more effective, no more respected Member of this House, than our friend NORMAN SISISKY.

This body is a lesser place for the loss of NORMAN SISISKY. This country is a little less secure today because we have lost such a strong voice for national defense. The strength of our country is that his voice will be succeeded by others, his example will be followed by others, and his legacy will be long remembered by those who elected him time after time after time to serve them in this body, by those of us who had the honor to serve with him and by a grateful Nation.

God blesses America, Mr. Speaker. God blesses America, in my opinion, through His children. NORM SISISKY was a blessing to his family, to his State and to our Nation. May God extend His blessing to his wife, to his children, to his extended family and, yes, to that staff whom I visited just a few minutes ago, that they will be soothed in their grief, as will the family.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) for yielding the time and join in substantial sadness at the passing of a good and great friend.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCHROCK).

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true Virginian and a great American, Congressman NORM SISISKY. Congressman SISISKY has served the Commonwealth of Virginia and our country with great distinction. He defended our Nation during World War II as a sailor in the United States Navy. The people of Petersburg elected NORM to represent them as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates for 10 years. Then in 1982, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives to represent Virginia's Fourth Congressional District, the district that abuts mine. He became a senior member of the House Committee on Armed Services where he became a champion of our military and veterans' issues.

In the House, he has worked to break bipartisan logjams on issues such as deficit reduction and campaign finance reform. Congressman SISISKY has been recognized as a hard worker and a skilled negotiator.

During his tenure, Congressman SISISKY took a lead in protecting Virginia's

Naval and military facilities while also working to ensure that military spending decisions strike the proper balance between strategic necessity and fiscal prudence.

Congressman SISISKY has been recognized for his leadership on many issues, such as national security, veterans' affairs, Social Security and Medicare, small business, protecting the environment, eliminating government waste and reducing the deficit. His record of distinguished service to our country and to the people of Virginia demonstrates to all of us his commitment to the values and principles of freedom and public service.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman SISISKY will be missed. I certainly will miss him. To NORM's wife Rhoda, his children, and his staff, I offer heartfelt condolences. Every one of them is in our prayers.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ), who serves on the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, someone once said that if you want to see the future or to see what is ahead of you, you need to get on the shoulders of a giant.

NORM SISISKY was a giant of a man. I came to know him very, very well. We were elected both in 1982, sworn into office in 1983, and for 19 years NORM and I sat next to each other. There was nobody that would look out for the needs of the military, the men and women in uniform, like NORM did. We had the privilege of traveling together, working together, and he was a constant source of inspiration and humor at our hearings.

The consummate businessman, he could figure quickly what the hidden costs were to the taxpayers in any plan that came before the committee, to the point that Chairman Dellums named him the "big kahuna," and most of us remember that in the committee when something was getting a little serious, we always knew that the "big kahuna" was around.

He was dedicated to Virginia, to the Navy, and to the betterment of our fighting men and women. He was always looking after his military bases in Virginia. We are going to miss a good friend.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer condolences to all of his family and to just tell them that we are praying for them. God bless America and NORM SISISKY.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR).

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our former colleague, NORM SISISKY. It is with great sadness that I join my colleagues in

honoring one of Virginia's great public servants. While I only recently came to Congress, NORMAN has been a familiar figure in Virginia politics for many years. NORMAN spent a lifetime serving Virginia and the United States and we are all deeply indebted to this distinguished gentleman.

He was a true patriot. He enlisted in the Navy as a young man during World War II. His time spent in the Navy, though short, left a lasting impression and he never forgot that we must diligently tend to the needs of the men and women serving in our military. At the conclusion of the war, he became a successful businessman and transformed a small Pepsi bottling company in Petersburg into a highly successful distributor of soft drinks throughout Southside Virginia.

NORMAN's background in the business community proved invaluable as he later decided to enter politics. NORM served in Virginia's general assembly for several years before being elected to the House of Representatives in 1982. Here in Washington, NORMAN was known as a staunch defender of our national security and worked tirelessly on behalf of the men and women who serve our Nation in the military. His booming voice echoed in the halls of Congress, and his light-hearted personality endeared him to his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

NORMAN was particularly effective at building coalitions in support of key programs and reaching across the aisle on matters of importance to all Virginians. From ensuring adequate funding for aircraft carriers and submarines to modernizing our weapons systems, he was an ardent voice on the Committee on Armed Services and an ally of every person who wears the uniform of the United States.

Back home, his reputation as an outstanding politician was unparalleled in the Commonwealth. His legacy of constituent service, consensus building and selfless service is a model for all Members of Congress. The people of the fourth district, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the United States of America have truly benefited from his dedicated service; and he will be sorely missed. NORMAN was successful in every endeavor, public or private; and we rightly celebrate his memory today. At this time I send my sincerest condolences to Rhoda and the entire Sisisky family.

□ 1515

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and valued member of the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), my friend and colleague, for yielding me this time this afternoon.

As we stand here this afternoon and pay tribute to a great American, I want us to reflect on what a great and good friend NORM SISISKY was to all of us. I cannot help but think that when we talk about America's greatest generation, we talk about people like NORM SISISKY.

We talk about people that were not afraid to stand up for this country, were not afraid to stand up for the things that were important to all of us as Americans. I also think about NORM's wit and his humor, which could either cut one down or brighten one's day, depending on what his mood was and what was being discussed.

I can remember one of the first things that I talked to NORM about, or he talked to me about, was early on in my first term when the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), another good friend and colleague who is present today, came in and got me to commit to the B-2 bomber. Little did I know that it was a choice between the B-2 bomber and another aircraft carrier. Well, it was not too hard to determine what side NORM SISISKY was on, and he came to me and asked for support. I said, well, I am sorry, but I already committed to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER). So he reminded me that there are things that we have to look at in balance, there are things that we have to do as Members of Congress that are important, and there are things and consequences if we do not support the United States Navy or certainly, if we support the Air Force at the expense of the United States Navy.

That is the kind of colleague and friend that he was. He did not hold anything against you. He always was gentle in the way that only he could be in bringing you along as a new Member of Congress.

I always enjoyed and felt reassured when I went into the hearing room and looked up on the top row and there was NORM SISISKY. There was an individual that one could go to for advice, one could go to for counsel, and the great institutional memory that he had about the things that are important as we sit as members of the Committee on Armed Services.

We never know when our time is going to be up; and certainly for us, it is a great loss. It is a situation that we hope we never have to face, but we must face as Members of this body. I am haunted by a question that I was asked here on the floor by one of the young people in the Close Up Foundation who asked, do you ever have Members of Congress die in office? All too often we do. I am just in my third term, and we have stood in this House too many times paying tribute to our colleagues, too many times giving our condolences to their families; but that is what life is about. That is what NORM SISISKY was about. He was about

doing the right thing. He was about being a good friend and certainly being a great American.

We as a country, I think, can be proud to have the NORM SISISKYS. Certainly his wife and his four sons and his grandkids that I know he loved dearly, because he always talked about them, and we as a country have suffered a great loss, but the legacy of NORM SISISKY is a legacy of those that sit on that top row in the Committee on Armed Services that offer the advice and the counsel and the reassurance that things are going to be okay. I know we are going to be fine, but we are still going to have to come to terms with the realization that this is a great loss of a great American for our country.

So I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I thank NORM SISISKY for his counsel, his friendship and, most of all, sharing his humor with us.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding me this time.

I want to remind the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), my good friend, that while NORM SISISKY wanted you to go with that aircraft carrier and I wanted you to go with more B-2 bombers, that we launched the Ronald Reagan the other day, an aircraft carrier; but we have no B-2 bomber that has been launched lately under the Ronald Reagan name or any others, so NORM was pretty effective in securing the interests of the United States Navy and American naval power.

Mr. Speaker, I think one thing that NORM's passing does for us, for all of us, is to give us a sense of the value of our own service of this House. I think the value of our service is manifested in the people we serve with. Sometimes we do not appreciate our colleagues and sometimes we do. I feel good now about all the times that NORM and I would stand at the back and I would put my arm around him or he would put his arm around me and we would talk about national security and what was happening.

NORM was, as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) just said, great counsel. He had this wonderful insight, he had a businessman's common sense, and he tempered it all with a lot of wit. I think one has to have a little sense of humor in this House of Representatives when working on these national issues. So we always looked forward to serving with NORM. When he would come in and take his seat there in the Committee on Armed Services and we were going to review a major issue, one could count on NORM SISISKY to give a lot of insight, shed some very valuable light on the subject, look at the subject very seriously, but at the same time maybe reflect a little humor, and there is a lot of humor out there to reflect on.

Mr. Speaker, I used to reflect on the fact that NORM was probably the best dresser in Congress, and it always delighted him when I would tell the assembled group, wherever it was, that his tie cost more money than my pickup truck, and it did. In fact, NORM was very kind when he remarked on the fact that I had recently put a new tire on my \$600 car. He was always very perceptive, and he saw I had a new tire on that a couple of months ago and he commented on that, and he made me feel very good about it.

NORM was a guy who was so valuable to this country, because he had the purest of American motives, and that was the national interest, at heart and we knew that. So whether one was talking to the Secretary of the Navy or the President of the United States, and I saw him engage with him here just a few months ago, one knew that he was going to cover an important subject. As a member of the team, if it was the Committee on Armed Services, you knew that your team was covering all the bases, because NORM was out there making the points and collecting the information and analyzing and doing the right thing.

So the question came to me, it just hit me when I heard about NORM's death today, where will we get that wisdom? It is true that we will not; we will no longer be able to avail ourselves of that great wisdom and that great insight in making these judgments that are important to the country; and that is a real tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I think NORM would like us to go on and to remember that when we have a few harsh words for each other, which we sometimes have, and when our interests diverge; when it is necessary for us to get political, which at times we do, if we can just lighten all of that with a little smile and a little sense of humor, then we will be able to reengage and go forward and work for the national interest.

Mr. Speaker, when I think of NORM SISISKY, I think of the national interest.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CONDIT), who has been a former Chair of the Blue Dogs of which Mr. SISISKY was a proud member.

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to stand to pay respect to NORM SISISKY and associate myself with the remarks of these colleagues up here today, many of them who have known him longer than I have. My affection for NORM SISISKY is that he was a man from the old school who believed in the strong values of this country. He believed in service and duty, and he respected service and duty. He loved this institution, he loved the House, and he loved the Members that serve here.

The best thing about NORM SISISKY for me was his sense of humor. Even

though he was a very serious man, had serious thoughts and made serious dedications to public policy here in this institution, he understood that old saying that if you take yourself too serious, no one else will take you serious. So he always, I think, put a little bit of humor and wit in about everything we did. When we had meetings, he was the guy that would always break the ice. I do not care if it was a high-level meeting, sometimes his irreverent attitude would break the ice, cut through, and we would be much better and the meeting would be much more productive because of that.

So I am going to miss NORM because of that, because he was fun to be around. I enjoyed his company. He was a precious, dear person. And he would always, when he first met you, you would think he was going to be this gruff, tough, rough guy; and all of us in the House understood that we let him think that we thought that he was the rough, tough, gruff guy; but we knew inside he was a class gentleman. He was a precious, dear person that cared and had compassion for all people. I will miss that. I will miss him dearly. Every time that I go back to that seventh row, first seat back there, I will always think of NORM SISISKY. We could find him there frequently.

So I want to take this opportunity to give my condolences to his family and just let them know, I am sure they already know this, but some of us they do not know, but he spoke of his family to all of us frequently. We know about his children; we know about his wife and his grandchildren. He loved them dearly. I am just honored that I had the opportunity to serve with NORM and consider him one of my friends.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) for making it possible for us to speak.

I was stunned and saddened earlier this afternoon when I learned about NORM's passing. He was a good friend. We do not have assigned seats here in the House, but I think everybody in the House knows that NORM SISISKY sat in the second seat from the back on the aisle. Every time we had a series of votes, we would come here and find NORM right there. He was a true and true Democrat, but he never hesitated to reach right across that aisle and work with Republicans on not only national defense issues, but issues of all kinds. He was a man of conscience, and I enjoyed working with him on many things and, above all, he was a straight shooter. You could know exactly where you stood with NORM SISISKY right from the start. He would tell you, and if he said he was with you, he was going to stick with you and if he was

not with you, he would tell you that right at the outset.

NORM was very, very proud of his family, his children and his grandchildren; and he talked of them very often. He loved life. He enjoyed every day and had a wonderful sense of humor, as the gentleman from California just indicated, and was somebody that I enjoyed stopping by the second seat from the rear back there and talking to NORM on many, many days.

I am going to miss him deeply. I give my deepest sympathy to his family, to his constituents. We have lost truly a great American and someone who will be very hard to replace.

□ 1530

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), a member of the leadership team and a member of the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, this is one of those moments in life where I find myself full of feelings and emotions, and yet at a lack of words to explain how I and we all feel about the loss of NORM SISISKY, our dear friend. Just yesterday I sent NORM a note in which I said, "I hope and pray you will be back soon, because I miss not being able to kid around with my friend on the floor."

As has been said by so many here, NORM SISISKY was a person who took the serious business of this Congress seriously, but yet always did so in good humor, without taking himself too seriously.

In a body where sometimes we do too many times take ourselves and our own actions seriously, it was so refreshing to have someone such as NORM SISISKY, who did have so much power and influence and respect in this body, yet handle his business within the proper perspective.

I will miss NORM SISISKY, my friend. I think America will miss the public servant NORM SISISKY. While he will not be with us here physically in this body, I can say that having served with him for 6 years on the Committee on Armed Services, my children and America's children live in a safer world today because of his contributions, and our grandchildren will live in a safer and better world tomorrow because of NORM SISISKY's contributions.

It has been said that when we leave this world, we leave all behind that we have, but we carry with us all we have given. By that standard NORM SISISKY had much to carry with him in his death, because he gave so much to each of us who were blessed to know him, and to so many Americans who would never know him by name, but who will surely, as we are here today, benefit from his public service.

To the Sisisky family I extend my prayers, thoughts, and deep gratitude

for the sacrifices of not only NORM, but his entire family in the many years of public service.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD).

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the past 2½ years I have had the privilege of serving on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Someone mentioned that NORM sat in the back row on the Committee on Armed Services. He sat in the back row next to the gentleman from California (Mr. CONDIT) on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and he was an extraordinarily knowledgeable individual, contributed so much to the Intelligence Community, and was so well respected by all of the people in the Intelligence Community, whether it was the CIA Director or the folks from the Intelligence Community at the Department of Defense. He was, if not the most respected, one of the most respected people on that committee.

It is kind of ironic that we stand here today to honor NORM, and a few months ago we honored another member of that committee, our friend Julian Dixon from California, both outstanding individuals.

We do not really get to know somebody like NORM until one serves on a committee with him and really understands his depth of knowledge, his intelligence, and his humor.

When I think of NORM, I think of two things: probably the most dapperly-dressed Member of this House, NORM was a dapper fellow; and someone who really cared about the institution, cared about the committees that he served on, particularly the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; and somebody who is just a decent fellow and probably, more than anything else, a true Southern gentleman in the truest sense of the word, with respect for everyone on both sides, respect for the job, a high degree of integrity.

He will be missed greatly on both sides of the aisle for so much he has contributed to the people of his district, to the State, to the country, and to so many other things he was involved in.

So to the gentlemen from Virginia, Mr. WOLF and Mr. MORAN, I thank them for devoting this time to a wonderful Member of this institution.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the minority leader of the House.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding to me, and I rise today on behalf of all Members to give our prayers and sympathy and love to NORM SISISKY's family; to say to his constituents and all of his friends that we grieve together in his passing.

It was a shock today to learn of his death. It was unexpected. It came as a bolt out of the blue this morning. It hurts all of us. We are all diminished by his loss. He was a wonderful Member of this House, a wonderful representative of his people in Virginia.

I think the thing that I most remember about him is when I would come through this door that he always sat by, he was always happy. He was always upbeat. He was always funny. He always had a wonderful way of putting things that made fun of or light of, in a way, what was serious on the floor here in the right way.

He used to kid himself in front of others about the fact that he came from some wealth, but that he voted against his own interests, and that his family would be mad at him because he did that.

He had a love of life and a love of public service that I will never forget. He was a real patriot. He loved this country, and he wanted our country to do better. He wanted us to prosper. He wanted our people to be secure.

He cared a lot about national defense. He cared a lot about our ability to have a strong defense and to have a strong intelligence effort. He asked me to be on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and I worked to get him there. He enjoyed his days there. He did a wonderful job there. He added a lot to that effort.

He was always bipartisan. I never heard him say a harsh word of anyone on either side of the aisle. He loved the House. He loved the fact that we decide things here on behalf of 250 million-plus people, and he was humble. He never saw himself as being better than anybody else anywhere in the country, anywhere in the world.

He was a son of Virginia, and he was a son of God. He believed in helping the people that he was sent here to help. Even though he was elected to the Congress, and he had greater personal wealth than probably most people in the country, he always remembered the people that had it tough and were poor and had a hard way to go.

We are going to miss NORM SISISKY. We grieve with his family, and we pray for their comfort and understanding at this time of great sorrow. We include every Member of this body in grieving the passing of a great American patriot.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS).

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, like all my colleagues, I am just saddened and shocked by the news of the death of my good friend NORM SISISKY who was one of the folks who was kind of like the glue that helped hold this place together.

The minority leader is exactly right, there was not a partisan bone in NORM

SISISKY's body. I had the pleasure of serving on the Committee on Armed Services with him, and for a short time on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Nobody cared about the men and women in every branch of the service as much as NORM SISISKY.

We were just in a hearing on the MWR panel down there, which NORM and I served on for 6½ years together. One of the Air Force generals was telling a story about NORM that is just so typical of him, in which he gave up some of his time during a break where he should have been devoting himself to his family, and he devoted himself to helping some young men and women in the United States Air Force. It just was so typical of NORM because he loved every branch of the service, and just stood for what is right about America.

NORM SISISKY stood out in this body as a man whose integrity and honesty was unparalleled. He was just a great gentleman in every respect, and I see my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. CONDIT), sitting over there from California. It is really going to be strange, I say to the gentleman from California, when I come in and I do not see NORM sitting back there with you and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) and the other folks, and I do not hear that craggy old voice giving me the devil about something, like he did every time I walked in.

But we are just thankful for the time we were able to serve with NORM, and to his family we certainly extend our heartfelt sympathy. Our prayers and thoughts will continue to be with them.

He was a great American, he was a great friend, a great Member of this body. He will truly be missed.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT), the ranking member of the Committee on the Budget, a man for whom Mr. SISISKY had great respect, not only for the breadth and depth of knowledge on national security affairs, but his own personal integrity.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, NORM and I came here together in 1983, and we sat beside each other for 18 years on the Committee on Armed Services and on several of its subcommittees.

He was tough-minded, tough-talking. When he asked questions, there were no punches pulled. Any witness who came before our committee with NORM on the top row had better be on his toes.

But at the same time, he was, as everyone who has spoken here today has said, gracious, generous, thoughtful, a gentleman to his very core. He was always the first to see the humor in ev-

erything, always ready with a quip, his ready wit.

He came here rather late in life for a freshman Member of Congress. He stayed. I do not think he ever thought he would be here for 18 years when I first met him in 1983, but he stayed because he loved it.

Not only that, NORM knew just what we have testified to here today, he knew he made a difference. He made a difference in this institution, he made a difference in the Armed Forces of the United States, he made a difference in this country.

He took great satisfaction in serving his country. He had great wealth, but I do not think it gave him nearly the pleasure that he got from serving here in the House of Representatives for 18 long years. He was well into his seventies, and despite a bout with colon cancer, despite his advancing age, he was in the saddle riding herd literally every day, tireless. He never quit. He virtually died with his boots on, which I am sure is the way NORM would have wanted to go.

Sitting beside him all these years, I was privy to his commentaries. When witnesses were testifying, we would get a subtext from NORM SISISKY. He would provide a commentary: where the witness was coming from, where the question was coming from. I used to listen to the witness with one ear and to NORM with the other ear, and marvel at what he knew.

He understood the big picture. He understood the institutional aspects. He understood the Pentagon, with the four military departments, but he also understood the nitty-gritty, because he was out in the field, both in his district, down in Norfolk, and Hampton Roads and Fort Monroe, out in the country and traveling all the time, and learning as he traveled.

This was not a pleasure trip for him. What he acquired from all of that was just enormous. We have lost a treasureload of institutional memory with the passage of NORM SISISKY.

The House will go on without NORM, but it will not be quite the same without him. Certainly the top row on the Committee on Armed Services will not be quite the same. The questions will not be quite as hard, the inquiry will not be quite as searching, and the glue that holds us together, builds coalitions across the aisles on different issues, will not be quite as binding without NORM there putting the deals together.

It was my pleasure for all these years to know him as a friend. It was my privilege to serve with him as a colleague. My only regret is that I did not have a chance to say good-bye.

But my heart goes out to all his family, whom he talked about, whom he loved dearly and spoke of often. If it is any consolation to them, I hope they will know that a little of NORM lives in

all of us who served with him, who admired and loved him, who emulated him, and will still continue to emulate him as what I consider a model Member of Congress.

□ 1545

They should know and the whole country should know that he served here and made this great institution of the Republic the kind of institution the framers intended for it to be. He was a great American, a great patriot, and we will all miss him dearly.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for yielding the time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to speak but for a few minutes here, because I did not know NORM SISISKY nearly as long as or nearly as well as so many Members that the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) just talked about that, that long relationship from day 1 with NORM SISISKY. But it was so much of the NORM SISISKY that I have gotten to know in the last 4 years, seeing him sit back there with the gentleman from California (Mr. CONDIT) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), my good friend.

I just had an opportunity less than a month ago to be on half a dozen military bases with NORM SISISKY over several days and several days where his health never came up. He was out there with the young men and young women who put their lives on the line, who give of themselves, to our country, as everybody probably in this Chamber has seen him do it one time or another responded in a beaming sort of way when those young sailors, those young airmen and women, young service people of all kinds would come to him at a breakfast or a dinner, he knew already many of the concerns they would have, because he was working on trying to solve those problems.

He was a person who saw humor in life, and humor is one of the things that keeps this place going. In fact, whenever we fail to be able to see the human folly of some of the things that we all are a part of, we fail to enjoy life like NORM enjoyed life.

I know on sitting with him on the airplane and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS), my good friend, who is Chairman on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, he was with us on that trip, but sitting with NORM on the airplane, he was telling me of a recent visit to one of the military installations in his district.

He said as he was walking through, he saw somebody and they said we knew you were coming today, we saw the message from the top brass yesterday, and the message was "daddy's coming." And he saw himself in that role for the young men and young women that defend our country.

And so for the rest of that trip after he told me the story, I would say daddy, it is time to go. Daddy it is time to do whatever it was time to do next. But he had that love for people, and there is a big bearlike reaching out to others.

He loved the service in this body. He clearly was up for every moment of it. Again, just literally less than 4 weeks ago was in a period of about 4 days and 6 far-flung military installations checking to be sure that the people who are defending our country were getting what they needed and if they were not, get what they needed, trying to figure out how he could help get it for them.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have served with him. I am honored to get to be here on the floor today as his good friends recognize the service of a great American, of a great patriot, of somebody who really was in so many ways the epitome of what can happen in this country.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ), a member of the Committee on Armed Services, another friend of Mr. SISISKY's.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) for yielding the time to me allowing me this opportunity to speak.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take this opportunity to express my condolences to the family and to the children. I want to share with you that I had the opportunity for the last 4 years on the Committee on Armed Services to have met NORM SISISKY.

When I first came, one of the first difficulties that I had, I had lost a base in San Antonio, and I knew that he was very strong, very supportive of depot, and I had the opportunity to make some comments. I thought that I was going to have some problems with him, because I knew that he felt very strongly on the other side. But I quickly found that he was a gentle man, very respectful, despite the fact that we disagreed on that one issue.

He recognized my situation and understood where I was coming from. I wanted to come today to say thanks to the family having allowed him to serve not only the State of Virginia and his constituency, but the Nation. He is an individual that was there for our troops, was there for our Nation, and I know that he has had a tremendous impact.

I just want to quickly just indicate, there is a poem by Robert Frost that says, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." There is no doubt that NORM has taken that road less traveled by and has made all the difference for all of us.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS).

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I will stand here and say it has been a very tough year for the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. This is the second Member we have lost, as well as a staffer in the past year. Obviously, I am devastated again to lose such a valuable Member as NORM.

To say, as others have said before me, I was watching the monitors as I was coming from another meeting, members of my committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) I heard say that NORM was the one who asked the tough questions. It is true. NORM did ask the tough questions, but he asked them in such a pleasant way, and no matter how well I knew the subject of a hearing in the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, he would inevitably surprise me with some question that had not been scripted, that nobody had thought of, right out of the wild blue yonder caught everybody off guard and that was just his hallmark and his style.

You always had to laugh. I always looked forward when it was time to yield to NORM for his questions. I am going to miss that.

It is true that NORM was an inveterate traveler, did so much business looking after our troops, our equipment, our state of readiness, what was going on around the world. He really cared about the men and women. I do not know how old NORM was, I suspect a little older than I am, and I know that I find that the early mornings seemed pretty early and the late evenings seemed pretty late, but he was always there to come down in the morning for that breakfast with the troops or the group, whoever was there that we were meeting, he was always there ahead of me. It seems like he was always getting more mileage out of the evening than I was too towards the end of the day.

I asked NORM to take a number of side trips with me on committee business, and he was always game. I got him in some mighty small planes in some mighty uncomfortable places in the course of some of those trips. I never heard him complain. He was always game for the next one when we went out, and he sure did his job extremely well.

To Rhoda and the family, Mariel and I will send our deepest condolences and our sympathy. We know you are going to miss him terribly as will all his friends here. The next time I get on that plane and look in NORM's seat, I know that I am going to have the same feelings I have now. It is not fair somehow, but it is what we have to deal with.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), another

friend of Mr. SISISKY's, specifically a leader of the Blue Dog Coalition and generally a leader of the House as well.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I join with all of my colleagues in expressing our sincere regret at the passing of NORM. I never had an opportunity to serve with him on a committee, but I enjoyed the replay of many of the committee sessions on the Committee on National Security and hearing what had gone on and the tremendous role that NORM played.

One thing I never heard was anything that came from the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He respected that committee a great deal and respected the precedents of that committee. I never sat with him on a committee, but I sat with him on "red-neck row" in this House and enjoyed many of his comments as I would sit and listen to his commentary of going on with what various Members of this body do and say on this floor, including myself.

There is no greater criticism that can come, and then come from the heart of NORM SISISKY, and you take it that way. I always appreciated his concern of the Virginia peanut farmers. He always was asking me as a member of the Committee on Agriculture, Are we taking care of my peanut farmers. He had a deep-seated interest in his constituency. He was truly a Member's Member.

There are few of us that can reach the standard that NORM did in bringing a true love for this institution and a true love for the armed services of this country. I know that words cannot truly express our feelings about NORM today.

We will miss him. This body will miss him, but this Member, too. As so many others have said, our hearts and prayers go out to the family of NORM and say we appreciate you sharing him with us. The 16 years that I have had the privilege of knowing and working with him, he has made my life richer for it, and he has made this body richer for it. And we truly, NORM, will miss you.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We know there will be a great many Members at services for NORM, and his spirit will live on in this Chamber as well as all the great accomplishments he achieved for his constituents, for the Commonwealth of Virginia and for the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of the time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to thank all the Members for coming, and every word that was said today was accurate. I listened to every word, every

word, from where NORM sat, to his sense of humor, to his character, to the comment about being a Member's Member, to the comment with regard to bipartisanship, every word, I can attest and I know that Members that are listening here, and every word that was said today was accurate.

NORM made a great difference, and he will be missed.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor my friend and colleague, NORMAN SISISKY, who served the Commonwealth of Virginia and our nation with distinction in the House of Representatives for the last 18 years of his life.

NORMAN's devotion to his country began right after graduation from high school. He enlisted in the Navy and served during World War II. After his release from active duty in 1946, he returned to his home in Richmond and entered what is known today as Virginia Commonwealth University. He graduated in 1949 with a B.S. degree in Business Administration.

All of NORMAN's House colleagues were well aware of his reputation as a businessman. He transformed a small Pepsi bottling company in Petersburg into a successful distributorship of soft drinks throughout southern Virginia. I know there are countless witnesses who have appeared before subcommittees and committees on which NORMAN sat that squirmed in their seats as they faced his probing questions concerning what struck him as the antiquated methods by which the Department of Defense acquired its equipment, services, and construction projects.

In 1973, NORMAN was first elected to public office, representing Petersburg as a Delegate in the Virginia General Assembly. He served five terms in the General Assembly before being elected to Congress in 1982. He was currently serving in his 10th consecutive term in the House.

A senior Member of the Armed Services Committee, NORMAN was Chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee in the 103rd Congress. He was the ranking Democrat on the Procurement Subcommittee in the current Congress, as well as a member of the Readiness Subcommittee and the Panel on Morale, Welfare, and Recreation. He was also one of the Armed Services Committee's "crossover" members to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

NORMAN was a valued member of the Armed Services Committee whose commitment to the security of this country was second-to-none—Republican or Democrat. He was also a proud member of the informal "Blue Dog" Coalition and one of its tireless advocates of increased defense spending—especially for aircraft carriers! I remember vividly NORMAN's handing out "Your Name Here . . . CVN 76" hats in an effort to get that carrier fully funded on schedule. I think he was as pleased as I when it was recently christened the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan*!

I traveled abroad with NORMAN on several occasions, and I greatly enjoyed his friendship. He was an exceptional politician and a patriotic American. Not only shall I miss his wise counsel but also his sense of humor. I am thankful to have known and worked alongside him for the past 18 years.

I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife, Rhoda, his four sons, and their families.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in expressing our deep sense of loss on the passing of our beloved colleague, the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. SISISKY.

NORM has served in this body for nearly 20 years, and beyond any doubt is one of those Members whose presence made a true difference. NORM was a "gentleman's gentleman", who earned the respect of all of us on both sides of the aisle.

NORM, prior to his Congressional career, was a soft drink and beer distributor. From that experience, he was able to share with all of us what it means to be a small business entrepreneur during the latter part of the 20th century. He shared with us the trials and tribulations of the American small business owner, his sincere belief that the bureaucracy was stifling free enterprise and initiative, and his contention that it was our responsibility to cut through red tape and other burdens upon the average taxpayer. NORM was a natural fit on the Committee on Small Business, and served with great distinction on that body for many years.

NORM SISISKY, as a Navy veteran, was also proud of his service on the Armed Services Committee, and was a font of knowledge and experience on that Committee. He was devoted to assuring our Nation's strong defense.

We extend our deepest condolences to his devoted wife, Rhoda, their four sons, Mark, Terry, Richard and Stuart, and most especially to the people of Virginia's 4th Congressional District, whose loss of a superb representative is shared by all of us as a loss to our nation.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 107.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OTTER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
Washington, DC, March 29, 2001.
Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 228(d)(1) of the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Cen-

tury (P.L. 106-181), I hereby appoint the following individual to the National Commission to Ensure Consumer Information and Choice in the Airline Industry:

Mr. Thomas P. Dunne, Sr. of Maryland Heights, MO.

Yours Very Truly,

RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain 1-minute speeches.

HONORING REVEREND DR. THURMOND COLEMAN, SR.

(Mrs. NORTHUP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize someone who has devoted his time and energy to his church and his beliefs. Reverend Dr. Thurmond Coleman, Sr., pastored the First Baptist Church in Jeffersontown, Kentucky for 45 years.

Upon his retirement, he was named Pastor Emeritus. Dr. Coleman has served as the Moderator of the Central District Association for the past 6 years, and his tenure will end in July 2001.

He is a community leader serving on the Louisville League, the NAACP, and the Kentucky Human Rights Commission. Dr. Coleman is also a civil rights leader bringing about reconciliation between black and white Baptists and among all races and religion.

On Saturday, March 31, 2001, Dr. Coleman will be honored for his hard work and dedication as Moderator of the Central District Baptist Association, which has a membership of 147 churches.

Individuals such as Dr. Coleman play a vital role in reconciling the divisions in our community and in building the hope of a better future for each person. I am proud to bring your attention to Reverend Dr. Thurmond Coleman, Sr., and all of his achievements.

□ 1600

MENTORING FOR SUCCESS

(Mr. OSBORNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, if we could create a program that would reduce absenteeism from school by 53 percent, drug and alcohol abuse by nearly 50 percent, teenage violence by 30 percent, and substantially reduce teenage pregnancy, gang involvement and dropout rates, would this be a desirable program? Obviously, the answer to this question is yes.

Next week, I will introduce the Mentoring For Success Act, establishing a national mentoring program through